(c) and (d) The SEZ Rules are reviewed and amended from time to time and two amendments have already been carried out on 10th August 2006 and 16th March 2007 respectively. The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) at its meeting held on 5th April 2007 after considering various issues related to the SEZs had fixed the upper limit of the area required for multi product SEZs at 5000 hectares and fixed the minimum processing area uniformly at 50% for multi product SEZs as well as sector specific SEzs. The SEZ approvals are being now granted by the Board of approval in terms of the said directives. Accordingly, suitable amendments to the SEZ Rules, 2006, are under process. In pursuance of the decisions of the EGOM, the State Governments have been informed on 15 June, 2007 that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007.

Impact of FTAs on Vanaspati Industry

1079. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Free Trade Agreements with Thailand, Nepal and Sri Lanka have hit the Vanaspati Industry;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some Indian producers are routing their products through these countries to avail of duty exemption; and

(c) Government's reaction on (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Vanaspati is not in the Negative List under India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and India-Nepal Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Vanaspati is also not in the Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) of India-Thailand Framework Agreement. Hence, in order to protect the domestic vanaspati industry, the Government has formalized Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) of 2,50,000 MT per annum of vanaspati including bakery shortening and margarine with Sri Lanka and 1,00,000 MT per annum of vanaspati with Nepal.

Proposal to leverage the freight corridor

1080. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to leverage the freight corridor and the golden Quadrilateral National Highway from Delhi to Mumbai by promoting an industrial corridor comprising large number of units;

(b) if so, whether this industrial corridor be developed with Japanese participation; and

(c) whether this corridor have supporting infrastructural facilities like rail connectivity to port en-route, development of ports on our west coast, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Recently, the Government of India have accorded, in-principle,